

Times **Community News****A New Year and a caring community**

By Councilmember Rose Herrera

Special to the Times

The New Year is here bringing with it sunny weather and hope for better days ahead.

As we turn the page on the old year I can't help but reflect on all the wonderful acts of kindness I witnessed during the holidays! The winter holiday season brought cold rainy weather but also the warmth of giving which helped make the weather and the season brighter. With the economy slowly improving and optimism in the air, there is much to appreciate everywhere we look. In many ways, tough times have brought our community together reinforcing the most important value of neighbors helping neighbors.

I am honored to represent a wonderful community that values service and giving; not only throughout the holiday season but also throughout the year. Many organizations in Evergreen have long been at work to provide a better education for our youth, to help those in need, and truly exemplify the best that our community has to offer. As your councilmember, it has been my pleasure to present commendations honoring the individuals and organizations that work hard to make Evergreen a great place to live. I look forward to recognizing more

District 8 residents and groups in 2011.

Our current economic climate placed a significant amount of pressure on us this past holiday season and the challenges continue in 2011. In spite of facing their own challenges, many were able to maintain the spirit of the holiday season and the spirit of giving. There were opportunities to celebrate the season as a community. For example, my office, in coordination with Shapell Homes and Involved Evergreen, recently presented the "Festival of Lights" at the Evergreen Village Square to promote and celebrate our multiculturalism. More than a hundred families came to celebrate their culture's winter traditions and support others. I look forward to next year's festival, which the attendees of the festival promised to make bigger and better.

We have long been home to people who value community service and enjoy volunteering as well. There are many organizations throughout the city that help those of us who are more in need during the holidays. "Toys for Tots" is a great organization that provides free toys to children whose families cannot afford them. Year-round donations to "Toys for Tots" ensure that a child in need will receive a gift during the next holiday season. Thank you Eastridge,

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District 8 Report

By Rose Herrera
City Councilmember

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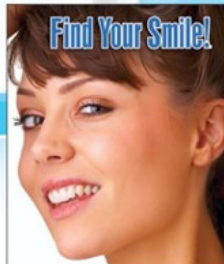


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